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Edgar F. Smith, professor of chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

Dr. J. W. Mallet, professor of chemistry, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

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Dr. John A. Mandel, Bellevue Medical College, New York, N. Y.

#### ARTHUR WOODBURY EDSON.

ON Friday, June 23, Mr. Arthur Woodbury Edson, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, died suddenly at Waco, Texas. The news of Mr. Edson's death came as a complete surprise and shock to his colleagues and friends in the

department. The members of the Bureau of Plant Industry who had been closely associated with him held an informal meeting on Saturday afternoon, June 24, and passed resolutions of condolence and sympathy for his bereaved wife and parents. Dr. Erwin F. Smith, Dr. H. J. Webber and others gave expression to their regard for the man and their admiration of his scientific work.

Mr. Edson received his training in botany and in agricultural science at the University of Vermont, studying under Professor L. R. Jones and receiving the degrees of bachelor and master of science. Professor Jones early discovered his great promise, as he showed from the first great aptitude and enthusiasm for scientific work. While at Vermont he devoted a great deal of attention to the problems connected with the sap flow of the sugar maple. The bulletin upon that subject published a year ago by the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station is based largely upon Mr. Edson's studies and experiments.

On July 1, 1901, Mr. Edson was appointed a scientific aid in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, entering at once upon plant breeding work, and assisting Dr. H. J. Webber in the breeding of long-staple upland cottons in South Carolina. Subsequently, Mr. Edson was promoted to the position of assistant physiologist, and was given charge of the plant breeding work upon cotton in Texas and adjacent states. When the plant breeding laboratory was called upon to cooperate with other organizations in the department in the cotton boll weevil investigations, Mr. Edson was entrusted with the direction of that part of the work. At the time of his death he had made great progress in producing not only earlier maturing varieties of cotton which escape the worst ravages of the pest, but varieties adapted to conditions in Texas having other desirable characters, such as greater yield, longer staple, larger bolls and easier picking qualities. Much as he had already accomplished along this line, he gave promise of even greater achievements, had not his untimely death cut short his work.

In view of Mr. Edson's many valuable qualities as an earnest and capable investigator, as

well as of the great importance and difficulty of the problem that had been put into his hands, the Department of Agriculture has sustained a very heavy loss in his death. His fellow workers feel that they have lost a more than usually upright and conscientious associate and a true-hearted, unselfish friend.

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GEORGE HOMANS ELDRIDGE.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Geo. H. Eldridge, geologist of the Geological Survey, which occurred on June 29. The Washington *Evening Star* says of Mr. Eldridge: "Born in Yarmouth, Mass., on Christmas day, 1854, he gained his early education at the Boston Latin School, where he took high rank in scholarship and in military affairs. Entering Harvard College with the class of '76, he devoted special attention to geological studies, and was taken on the 'varsity glee club. After graduation he taught until selected by Raphael Pumpelly as special expert on coal and base metals for the tenth census. At the conclusion of that investigation he was placed in charge of responsible work as geologist of the northern transcontinental survey and rendered valuable service in determining the extent and value of the coals of the Rocky Mountain region. In 1884 he entered the United States Geological Survey. For several years thereafter he was engaged in field work in several western states and Florida. In 1898 he was in charge of geological investigations in Alaska, and in recent years has been occupied almost entirely in making extended studies of special mineral deposits. Mr. Eldridge won an international reputation as an expert on asphalt, was an authority on phosphate and coal, and when his last sickness overtook him was engaged in preparing an exhaustive report on the oil of California. He has contributed valuable knowledge to the science of geology and has published 'Report on Montana Coal Fields,' 'Industries of the Base Metals,' an important portion of a monograph on 'Geology of the Denver Basin of Colorado,' 'Report on Asphalt and Bituminous Rock Products of the United States,' and numerous papers on various mineral deposits in this

country and Alaska. He was a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the Geological Society of America and the Geological, the Anthropological and the Harvard Societies of Washington.

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SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

DR. E. RAY LANKESTER, director of the British Museum of Natural History, has been elected president of the British Association for the meeting to be held next year at York.

THE Rev. Dr. Nathan C. Schaeffer, Pennsylvania state superintendent of public instruction, has been elected president of the National Educational Association.

OBERLIN COLLEGE has conferred the degree of D.Sc. on the Rev. John C. Gulick, known for his work on the shells of the Hawaiian Islands and his theories regarding segregation and isolation as factors in organic evolution.

AMHERST COLLEGE has conferred its LL.D. on President Carroll D. Wright, of Clark College, and its D.Sc. on Mr. Henry Noel Potter, an electrical engineer of New York City, and on Dr. J. F. McGregory, professor of chemistry at Colgate University.

HOBART COLLEGE has conferred the degree of doctor of science on Dr. James M. Coit, teacher of natural science in St. Paul's school.

THE University of Dublin has conferred its doctorate of science on Professor E. A. Schäfer, professor of physiology at Edinburgh University, and on Professor Sydney Young, professor of chemistry, at University College, Dublin.

MR. T. A. RICKARD has resigned the editorship of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, his resignation having taken effect on June 30.

DR. HARVEY W. WILEY, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, of the Department of Agriculture, has gone to Europe under instructions from Secretary Wilson to make an exhaustive investigation of methods of preparing and preserving food products for shipment to America.

THE United States cruiser *Minneapolis*, conveying Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester, superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory, and the other members of the